



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ONE MAN PLEADS GUILTY, ANOTHER SENTENCED FOR PIPE BOMB EXPLOSION**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that one Lamar, Mo., man has been sentenced and another has pleaded guilty in federal court to arson caused by exploding a pipe bomb. The bomb was wired to a pick-up truck in an unsuccessful murder attempt during a bitter child custody dispute, Graves said.

**Winston Eugene Holt**, 63, of Lamar, was scheduled to begin trial today on charges contained in an April 1, 2004, federal indictment, but instead pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon.

**Arvon M. Swanberg**, 67, also of Lamar, was sentenced on May 20, 2005, to 10 years in federal prison without parole. **Swanberg** pleaded guilty on March 3, 2005, to using an explosive device to commit arson.

**Swanberg** and **Holt** both admitted that they intended to kill Landon Hackler with the bomb on Oct. 28, 2000. Hackler was the ex-husband of **Swanberg's** wife (since divorced), Graves explained, with whom he was involved in a child custody dispute. **Swanberg** purchased some of the materials to make a pipe bomb at a local Hobby Lobby store and learned from **Holt** how to wire it to a truck so that it would explode. **Swanberg** assisted **Holt** in the construction of the pipe bomb, which **Swanberg** attached to the bottom of Hackler's 1993 Ford truck while it was parked at his place of employment. Hackler was employed as an over-the-road truck driver for Longhorn Trucking.

The pipe bomb failed to operate properly, Graves said, so that Hackler suffered a back injury and hearing loss rather than death, but the bomb caused extensive damage to the truck.

**Swanberg's** wife later kidnaped the child involved in the custody dispute and fled the

state, Graves said. She was a fugitive from April 2001 until January 2004, when she was arrested in Florida and extradited to Barton County, Mo. She then provided information that led to **Swanberg's** arrest and a federal criminal complaint being filed on March 26, 2004. That complaint was replaced by a federal indictment on April 1, 2004.

Under federal statutes, **Holt** could be subject to a mandatory sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Barton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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